Pikeville College

REV. JAMES F. RECORD, PH. D., D. D., PRESIDENT

PIKEVILLE, KENTUCKY

February 16,
1 9 2 8

Rev. Stewart M. Robinson,
Lockport, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Robinson:

We received a check recently from the treasurer of your church for $375.00, a contribution to Pikeville College. I have been so busy on our campaign that I have not had time to write you expressing my appreciation of this gift. I want to assure you that I do appreciate it most heartily and it is a great help to us.

We started our campaign February 1, and are meeting with success in getting things set up. I am especially pleased with the response our Kentucky people are giving to us. Pikeville is entering most heartily into it and has accepted a quota of $35,000 which I feel confident we shall reach.

I am just home from two days in Cleveland together with the manager of the campaign getting things started there. I am wondering if, when we put on the solicitations in Cleveland, it would be possible for you to be with us for a few days to work among the members of the Church of the Covenant. Mrs. Stephenson Burke is in Florida and will not return until May. I was in hopes that you might go with me or some one of us to see her. Possibly you can when she returns.

Could you help me to see any person in Lockport who would be likely to give to us five hundred or a thousand dollars or more on this campaign?

May I ask that our endeavor to secure these funds have a place in your prayers? With high regard, I am

Sincerely yours,

James F. Record

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February 24th 1928.

The Rev.James F.Record,D.D., President,
Pikeville College,
Pikeville, Kentucky.

Dear Doctor Record,-

I found your kind letter of Feb.16th waiting for me on my return from a very delightful week spent at Tusculum College. Dr.Gray asked me to come down to conduct their annual week of special meetings.

The news that you have made such a good start in the effort for a more adequate financial foundation for the great work in Pikeville is very gratifying. I shall be very glad to do what I can for you. I have had no direct contact with Cleveland people since I left, but I imagine some of them still remember me.

On Monday March 12th and on the three following Mondays I am scheduled to address some pre-Easter men's meetings at Youngstown, Ohio under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A. there. It might be possible for me to stop off in Cleveland on my way home from one or another of those engagements and stay over night in Cleveland. From now on our own local work becomes very exacting, but I should be glad to try to do this if possible.

I might do a little something here at home with one or two people.

If you have some literature on the subject, I could send a few copies with a covering letter which might help prepare the way for a later personal presetation. I find that often the right kind of a letter in advance helps wonderfully to start things, and saves much time, by putting you on common ground with the prospect. Often your party is already disposed to favor the project; at least he is informed and knows what you are after.

If you already have some kind of contact with any of the Covenant people and can let me have their names, I might write them. That would at least inform them of my special interest and make them understand when I turn up in Cleveland that it is not merely an insatiable desire to see their faces which brings me back. Otherwise having stood the strain for almost seven years they might be surprised.

You may be sure of my heartfelt interest in the cause.

With kindest regards to all, I am,

Sincerely yours,

February 28th 1928.

The Rev.Charles O.Gray, D.D., President,
Tusculum College,
Greeneville, Tenn.

Dear Doctor Gray:-

Back again at the regular job with many happy memories of the week spent with you at Tusculum. It is certainly a great place, and every thought of it brings me pleasure. I hope that Mrs.Gray is feeling better now. Please remember me most kindly to her, and to all the other friends there who did so much to make my visit delightful.

I hope you feel that my coming was worth while. It did me a lot of good, and I hope you folks got just a part of the blessing I received. I sent down twenty five pocket Testaments to Amador Martinez, which he has doubtless received by now. The last day I gave away the few I brought with me. I had not thought much about them, but evidently someone remembered that I spoke of having a few, and once one had gotten out, the rest were strongly desired. If Martinez needs more, I shall be very glad to see that another supply is placed in his hands.

The Rogers are back and spoke of having a little chat with you. They did not see Mrs. *Mary Erskine Wilson Gray, which was a great loss to them. They spoke about her, however, so you evidently tried to tell them all they had missed.

I enclose a copy of a letter I sent Mr.Wiltsie. As I said, I shall be glad to come over to Rochester when you come, if it is anyway possible for me to do so. On the four Mondays, March 12, 19, 26, and Apr. 2nd I am to be in Youngstown, Ohio speaking at some pre-Easter noon-day meetings, so Monday will not be convenient on those weeks. Otherwise barring ordinary and unusual appointments like mid-week services, funerals etc. one day is as good as another.

Sunday night I spoke about Tusculum at our evening service and my people said afterwards, that I certainly seemed to be enthusiastic about the place. They got the right impression.

With kindest regards, and many grateful thanks for all your kindness, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

February 27th 1928.

Mr.Charles H.Wiltsie,
123 Plymouth Ave.,
Rochester, New York.

Dear Mr.Wiltsie,-

I am just back from a ten day trip to Tusculum College where I conducted their week of special meetings which they hold annually. I was interested to discover that Dr.O.O.Gray, the President was acquainted with you and with Dr.Lawrence.

This was my first trip there. I have known of the college and generally of the fine nature of its work, but until last week it was only a name to me. But I was both amazed and delighted when I got there and came to see the inner workings of the institution.

They have at Tusculum just that wonderful something in the combination of American youth at its finest and fairest physically, plus first class college education under trained experts, plus old fashioned solid practical every-day Christianity which most of us talk about with such pride as of the older days, but only dream about as existing now in these rushing hectic modern times.

My first reaction was: here is a place I would like to see my children come. Under the shadow of the Great Smokey Mountains in beautiful eastern Tennessee there is health. With the splendid staff on the faculty there is a first class education and with the atmosphere nourished by Dr.Gray and every single one of his helpers, there is that other moral and spiritual something without which the rest would be useless.

I am an enthusiastic admirer of Tusculum College. I talked to mostof the students, watched their daily life with close attention, lived in one of the dormitories, and am sure I obtained a correct impression of the place.

To my mind it is a strategic base for real Christian education. I came back determined to see to it that our own church here puts Tusculum on our list. Our denominational board of Christian Ecucation gives credit against our annual apportionment for all money we may send to Tusculum, so it means no additional expenditure. But I am much in hope that it may mean for our people here a decided increase, because I want our church to have a part in this vital piece of work.

Tusculum has been going since 1794 and has thereby earned an honorable place among the educational institutions for higher learning in our land. To-day it has a splendid equipment, not everything necessary by a fine lay-out. Some of our outstanding Presbyterian people in days gone have done fine things for this college. The institution is at a high peak of efficiency and morale right now. While most of the student body come from the vicinity discerning people are sending a small quota of students from the north and east.

The next generation is going to see a great industrial and commercial development in this central-southern section of our country. Already I read many indications of the rising tide. It seems to me to be the part of wisdom to notify all forward looking Christian laymen of this crucial out-post.

If Dr.Gray comes along past Rochester in the future, may I bespeak for him a kindly ear. He has something down there, which is worth looking into.

Anne MacGregor and our white headed little tribe of three are all fine. We had a delightful time with you at lunch last summer, and often regret the fact that there is so little going to and from Rochester. I have four speaking engagements in Youngstown, Ohio between now and Easter. We are just completing a seventy five thousand dollar addition to our church, the pre-easter season with its increased spiritual acitivity is upon us, and altogether everything seems to be in motion.

Please give our very warmest greetings to each and every member of the family.

Very sincerely yours,